

PASS 4 - Parent Engagement in Learning, PARCC, and Student Achievement

PASS 4: Tools and Topics

The PASS model refers to the term "parent" as any adult who plays an important role in a child's family life.

PASS 4 should be delivered in a unique manner at every school

Educators and parents coordinating PASS events and opportunities should review all tools within the PASS 4 theme and select those that best meet the needs of their unique education community. Some of the PASS tools have similar language or points – that is intentional. PASS recommends that educators and parents “meet each other where they are in the partnership process.” NJ schools and districts have full access to PASS documents and can cut and paste as appropriate to meet their needs. PASS partnership discussions, communications and modeling might include:

- The purpose and benefits of measuring student learning;
- The PASS model and parent engagement in student learning and assessment;
- Understanding PARCC results and what the numbers mean for individual children;
- Reasons that PARCC is so valuable to students and the benefits of parents’ role in monitoring student progress;
- Information on how parents’ observations and input about their child’s learning at home can be useful for assessment in the classroom and as part of a balanced and broad assessment program;
- A variety of assessment methods and how results impact teaching and learning;
- Rigorous learning standards, classroom assessments and PARCC – all necessary for college and career readiness;
- Some ways that parents can help students learn outside of school to gain more from learning in school; and
- Resources for more information on parent engagement in student learning and PARCC.

Tools and Topics

1. Vision, Mission, Goals of the New Jersey PASS Model - Home/School Partnerships for Student Learning and Achievement
2. Tools and Topics
3. A Description of the New Jersey Model of Home/School Partnerships for Student Learning
4. Evaluate Current Home/School Relationships and Consider the Impact on Student Learning, Assessment, and Achievement
5. Using the New Jersey PASS 4 Model
6. PARCC Assessments Fit into a Larger, Logical Context
7. An Introduction to the 2014-2015 PARCC Assessment Results
8. Communicating Assessment Results with Families
9. A Guide to Parent and Educator Conversations about the PARCC Score Reports
10. Sample Communication: A Five Star Communication between Home and School
11. Support for Parents as They Talk to Their Child about PARCC Scores
12. Some Myths and Facts: Assessment and PARCC
13. Update: October 2015 - Milestones of PARCC Assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics
14. 2016 State Test Administration Dates
15. PARCC Resources for Parents and Families

The New Jersey Department of Education’s model for home/school partnerships – **The Parent Academy for Student Success (PASS)** provides documents and support tools intended to complement information about the state’s academic standards and annual assessments for students. The PASS model provides resources, materials, and opportunities for parents and educators to build home/school partnerships in the best interest of students’ academic success. For information on the NJDOE PASS model go to: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/toolkit/>. Please send questions to: informccs@doe.state.nj.us.

Some Benefits of Implementing the PASS Model

- All PASS tools, topics and practices are singularly focused on student achievement and are geared toward reducing barriers to effective home/school collaboration for students' best interests.
- PASS materials include suggested supports and activities to help educators and parents discuss current education topics and themes. The materials are intended for individualization, communication, and engagement activities in each community.
- The PASS model is flexible and easily adaptable to any K-12 grade level. It is not prescribed or mandated by the state, but rather it provides a suggested structure for all New Jersey districts and schools wherein they have the flexibility to design, customize and strengthen their systems and activities that support parents as they guide their children's learning from preschool through high school.
- PASS implementation is aligned with New Jersey's current academic standards: The Next Generation Science Standards; the Core Curriculum Content Standards (CCCS); the Common Core State Standards (CCSS); and PASS will be adopted after the 2015 academic standards review process.
- PASS implementation is also aligned with New Jersey's professional standards for educators, such as:
 - NJ Professional Standards for Teachers and School Leaders;
 - Interstate School Leader Licensure Consortium (ISLLC);
 - Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC); and
 - National Parent and Family Involvement Standards.
- PASS implementation is designed to complement other parent involvement programs.
- The PASS philosophy and guidance allow educators to assure parents that support at home does not mean re-teaching classroom subject matter; rather, it involves becoming fully informed about the expectations for learning and supporting students as they demonstrate that learning in new and measurable ways.
- The PASS model encourages and supports home/school partnerships that explore the primary significance of the student learning process and secondary importance on curricula. The PASS design recognizes that in this knowledge society, information will continue to expand and extend beyond facts. Therefore, students need to have the ability to master the learning process and apply their skills to any new intellectual challenges in their future.
- Implementation of the suggested PASS model will allow educators to share examples of what effective teaching and learning look like in current classrooms. Parents will also have opportunities to share information and insight into their child's learning outside of school. The model allows instruction to become more creative when differentiating and personalizing student learning strategies, and parents can see the benefits of the shift from teachers teaching to learners learning. These benefits add significant value to parent-teacher conferences and provide a framework for personalized student learning strategies.
- Through PASS, parents will have the opportunity to learn about current classrooms that:
 - Help students "learn how to learn;"
 - Emphasize the connection of classroom skills to real-world challenges;
 - Value the differences each individual brings to learning and problem-solving experiences;
 - Help students learn how to work as part of a team;
 - Empower every learner to self-regulate his or her learning;
 - Foster students' curiosity, creativity, innovation, problem-solving, global literacy, communication and interpersonal skills; and
 - Provide students with meaningful opportunities to help them use information across disciplines.

Strong and specific academic partnerships between home/school boost student achievement and give students a better chance to succeed in school and in their life beyond school.